Leicester, August 6. 1854.

Dear Miss Estlin;

First- I acknowledge, with many thanks, - while I fear you tasked your strength too much to write it, - your letter by Mrs. Follen, so full of welcome intelligence and detail. I am truly happy to know how comfortable your father is, and how much he is enjoying the Summer at the pleasant, peaceful retreat of Clevedon, - for such the various pictures of it, which you have sent us, show it to be. I have not seen Mrs. F. - I learn from W. Phillips that she has gone to the house of her brother, Mr. Cabot, in Beverly, about 20 m^d. N. of Boston, - on the northerly coast of Massachusetts Bay, a pleasant Summer retreat. - Your letter reached me last Friday eve'g, two days after I had mailed a missive to 47 Park St. Bristol, (consisting of a letter to your father, and a hastily-scribbled note to you,) and but six hours after I had mailed one to Richard D. Webb, - partly on busineſs, and partly on general topics. -

I am thus early commencing a reply to yours, because I wish to notice, while it is fresh in my mind, the letter of Pillsbury whose insertion in the Liberator you regret, on account of the effect you think it likely to have on ell. Chamerovzow, & his feelings towards the members of the Am^n. Society here. - I can honestly say that I should much regret doing, or being accessary to the doing, of anything which could be justly construed into a slight or affront towards Mr. C.,

The thought that such an effect might come of sending that ext.ᵈ from P.'s letter to the Literature, never occurred to me. The expression of the former Secretary's "unfortunately" having resigned, I think you misunderstand;- perhaps I do, but it seemed to me wholly ironical, & that P. really meant to be understood that, in that change, the B. & F. Soc'y were emphatically fortunate. He alludes to the change in the Secretaryship as the reason of his having had, himself, an invitation to speak at the B. & F. Anniversary, - an invitation which I wish he had had health & strength to accept, and which I suppose, in that case, he would have accepted. I for one would have rejoiced to have him speak there. I am sure he would have been listened to with attention, whether his hearers agreed or disagreed with what he said. - But to return, - P. takes care to say he is not acquainted with the new Sec'y, & does not even mention his name. I really think him quite careful. So far, I cannot see that Mr. C. has anything to object to, in P.'s letter, on his own personal account, for P.'s somewhat sarcastic inquiry 'What mischief he had done', &c. to have been invited to take part in a meeting so tame, antislavery-wise, I regard as having exclusive reference to the Speakers, not at all certainly to Mr. C. who cannot be responsible for what the Speakers say or don't say, & who must in his invitations be guided considerably by the Committee whose agent he is. - Then P.P. does refer to the entire silence

of that platform, - even of the Secretary's own report, - in regard to the existence even of the American A. S. Society! and I think he very properly refers to it; at the same time, he forbears all comment upon it. I think the fact, that neither G. Thompson nor W. W. Brown were asked to speak there, was a noticeable one. - I can easily understand that the friends of the B. & F. will think the conclusion he comes to, as to the value of their organization to the Slave's cause, a very unsound one, and very disrespectfully expressed. But you will not differ from him in thinking there is much ground for the opinion.

Now, for my reasons for in sending the Letter to the Liberator; - I had no such very weighty ones, as you kindly give me credit for. They were simply two - 1st. Because P. P. had marked off that portion of his letter, suggesting that it might answer for the Lib; as he had not been able to write any thing expressly for Mr. Garrison. and 2d. - Because it struck me that the facts therein stated ought to be known by American Abolitionists, and it was the only acc't. I had seen of the B. & F. anniversary. - I must strongly repeat my entire freedom from any wish or thought to annoy or wound Mr. Chamerovzow's feelings, thro' the publication of that letter. In fact I thought nothing of its effect on him, for I did not discern any personal reflection upon him.

But, I must add, that, from what I have observed, I have been strongly inclined to believe that Mr. Chamerovzow can do little towards aiding

the American A. S. Society, or even towards a fair presentation of their case to his British friends, while he is connected with the Broad St. Contee. I must either think this, or I must go farther and suppose that, in his own heart, he cares nothing for the Am. A. S. Soc'y & its friends, and has no real wish to have them correctly understood by the British public. Else, why should he omit all notice all mention of the Society, & of all its American members & supporters, - while he did mention Chas and Charles Sumner, and Dr. Wayland, - men, who, in an antislavery point of view, & on an antislavery platform, are not certainly to be preferred before Garrison, and W. Phillips, and Francis Jackson, and S. S. Foster, and Lucretia Mott, & some oth - If Mr. C. really feels cordially towards the Am'n Soc'y, he will, I believe, be subjected to many disagreeable rebuffs & checks in his intercourse with the Broad St. Contee, and will find himself hampered, if not gagged, at the very barriers when a word or a deed are most needful; - and if he does not cordially feel so, - why! the less reliance we place upon him the better. So, I think, dear friend M., I must stand by P.P.'s letter, as he wrote it, & as it stands in the Lib; while I also agree with you, as I am sure P.P. would that we ought not to throw any obstacles in the way, unnecessarily, of Mr. Chamis's helping us all he will & can. - I do really feel that he should not take personal offence at any thing in that letter. - I am sorry I could not have said this in 1 page, instead of 4, - for your sa

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Have I ever said to you, that I have never had the pleasure of having a copy of the edition of your father's pamphlet, published by the Leeds A. S. Assocn.? I have very much wished for one, repeatedly. I suppose there were parcels of them in the box from Leeds, last autumn, which went to the bottom in the ill-fated ship in which ~~they~~ it was sent. By some convenient opportunity, please send me one. Mrs. Follen brought over 200 copies of Baines's Letter to the Boston Editors. There are from 100 to 120 Editors (of all sorts) in Boston. We have taken pains that every one should have a copy. The balance I am sending to editors in different parts of the country. I sent a copy, with a letter, to the Editor of the Massachusetts Spy, at Worcester, one of the oldest papers in the country, and the leading political paper in this County. He published it, in full, in his Daily issue. It is a very good letter. I do not believe a single Boston editor will publish it, or even extracts from it, except Garrison

Leicester, Aug. 22d. — This has been waiting to be filled up, as time & occasion should serve. Last night came to hand yours of Aug. 8. (13 days from Clevedon to Leicester), enclosing your correspondence with Mr. Chamerovzow. I read it with interest, & with pain, - the latter chiefly (I think I may say) on account of the trouble & worry it has given you, & the annoyance to your Father. I think Mr. Ch. is making too much out of a small affair, - though if he deems P. P.'s language, which I do not, as bordering on insult, it is not, I admit, a small affair. - Nor will I, in turn, charge Mr. Ch. with wanting to create a difficulty, or any thing of the sort; but the spirit in which he has, by his own showing, met the Manchester Conference, is not (I think) an enlarged spirit, one which truly comprehends the true unity of all, the unity of the spirit, & knows how to tolerate and rejoice in every true manifestation of Anti-Slavery interest. I do not wonder that R. D. Webb expresses astonishment at the idea that the Manchester Conference was designed to be a rival to a future & as yet uncalled London Meeting. Why, it would follow that no A. S. meeting could be held anywhere in the United Kingdom, on the subject of Slavery, until the London Meeting had been held - that not even, in a provincial

town, could a meeting in honour of England's
most glorious (shall I not say) anniversary,
without being liable to the suspicion of an
interference with the plans of those who long
have been, - to the no small damage of the
cause, as many on both sides the water believe,
- the leaders & managers of British Anti-Slavery! —
No union can be ~~hoped~~ looked for, I am confident,
if so much deference is to be exacted for any one
party, however wealthy & influential, or if so strong
a feeling on the subject is entertained, as Mr. Ch.
expresses. I know I cannot enter into the
peculiarities of English feeling on these matters —
there is a great deference expected there to Societies
& bodies who take rank of others. But the A.S.
Cause, as here conducted by all who take an
interest in it, Knows nothing of such considerations.
On the broad basis of equal Rights, of a Christian
humanity & brotherhood, it recognises morally
& politically no superior, & no paramount interest. —
Now. ~~For myself~~ I should have supposed that Mr.
Ch: would have rejoiced in the Manchester Meeting,
and gone to it, & took part in it, without hesitation,
and have said with Paul — "nevertheless, every way
Christ is preached & therein I do & will rejoice". But
this is a matter I cannot usefully enter into. I
can only say that I had no suspicion of anything

objectionable in the calling of the M. Conference, — and that I am truly sorry any ill feeling exist with regard to it. —

To me, it is a more serious matter that Mr. Chamerovzow complains that he has been "treated with disingenuousness & want of generosity" This he says he knows — & that facts bear out the opinion. I am exceedingly sorry for this — not that I have ever anticipated any great results from his most assiduous efforts to bring about an apparent cordiality & union among British & American Abolitionists generally. The root of the difficulty lies deeper down — in feelings of sectarian pride, of religious bigotry, of personal & social self-consequence, — some of the strongest & worst feelings of the human heart, the most difficult to be eradicated; and it is no disrespect to Mr. Ch.'s eminent ability, or to his good will for the work, to say that it is not in his power to reach & remove these feelings in the breasts of the Broad Pr. Committee & their supporters. And an external appearance of co-operation, where no heart mutual confidence, tolerance, & sympathy are felt, is (in my view) of very small consequence. It is much easier to go on, in our several paths, avoiding jostling & contention, each man & each party doing all they can, in an honest way, to promote the great cause of God & man, & trust to Time, & the changes it brings, to develope a unity of Spirit and of <u>effect</u>, this which God shall be pleased to

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accomplish this great work. — But I am wandering — what the facts are, from which Mr. Ch. feels that he has been thus ill-treated, I know not, — saving Pillsbury's letter; and on that I expressed my opinion on the first sheet of this note, written over 2 weeks ago. If Pillsbury really meant that it was unfortunate that Mr. Scobie had been succeeded by Mr. Ch., I shall be much surprised. I did not so understand him. Nor can I believe he so means it, unless it be in the sense that we are apt to be more sorry, & to deem it unfortunate for a cause, when a good man gets into a wrong or equivocal position regarding it, than when that position is occupied by a well known enemy, — a bigoted or a tricky man. This may have been his thought. — I sincerely hope he will soon have an interview with Mr. Ch., and will explain the whole, & be able to express a full & frank regret at having personally wounded Mr. Ch.'s feelings, in repulsing his advances. &c. Of P. P.'s criticisms on the Meeting generally, I must say that I think them legitimate, & not without reason, — as I have before said. Pillsbury's letter is now before me. The two pages of it are enclosed in brackets, with these words following: "I have just been looking over what I have written, & have drawn brackets round the last two pages, thinking that perhaps they might be worth a corner in the Liberator. You may submit the matter with my most affectionate regards to

Mr. Garrison, telling him the reason I do not write more for the Amer. A. S. papers, as you find it in the first part of this letter" [his health, & the immediate duty of answering letters rec^d. day by day]. Under these circumstances, I could do nothing else than send the letter to Mr. G. — which I did, remarking on the envelope that P. P. had marked 2 pages for the Lib^r., giving a "racy notice" of the Exeter Hall meeting of the B. & F. Society. — G. and I have never exchanged words about it since. I have not seen him, since I rec^d. your note by Mrs. Follen, I became acquainted with the fact that trouble was likely to come from the publication of the letter. I go to Boston tomorrow, and will then have a full conference with Mr G. on this matter; and will try to persuade him to give you a letter, of his view — What other "facts" there be, to which Mr. Ch. alludes I know not; nor whether they involve any of the American Abs^ts I can only say I have never heard a word of disrespect, no not even of coldness, towards Mr. Ch., uttered by man or woman amongst us. We have been happy at every evidence we have seen of a kindly & liberal spirit on his part, and of a determination so far as he could effect it, to sink all occasions of strife, & to manifest at least a courteous spirit towards the American Soc^y & its friends. Of late these evidences seemed to me to decrease in number; & the facts named in Pillsbury's letter confirmed me in the fear that

all Mr. Ch.'s good purposes towards us were to be over-ridden by influences wh. he could not withstand. — I am bound to say that, in this correspondence with you, and I say it without any effort of duty, but with sincere pleasure, ~~that~~ Mr. Chamerovzow manifests a courteous & magnanimous spirit. Yours to him is like yourself, ~~which~~ or, what we suppose "like you", temperate, fair, seeking to be just to all. No better elements, for the composure of strife & difference, can be desired or found. — I have not much to add on this subject, & perhaps have said too much already. It does, however, strike me that Mr. Ch. is, probably unconsciously, putting some other end or object higher than the best interests of Anti-Slavery; - or, not to be misunderstood, - it seems to me that he has a pet plan of "a union", perhaps under the auspices of the B.& F. A.S. Soc'y, which he ardently desires to bring about, & to see all the various A.S. elements in the kingdom coalescing in it; - and this, too, as he would naturally think, as a good means of furthering the best interests of the cause; - so that, in his estimation, this last object would be the actual & ultimate one, in fact. But, in this latter opinion he may be mistaken. That sort of a union may not be possible, may not be really desirable, - or, at least, not by any means so desirable as something else. — In my poor judgement, I should not think it best to

expend much time & labour upon Such a
union as I have hinted. To me it seems infinit
more to be desired that the Conscience & Sympathies
of the Nation should be aroused by the multitudin
facts & arguments &c. the Slave System has furnished
and is every day furnishing, and then allow those
Sympathies to seek those channels they prefer, - &
course taking care frankly & honorably to point
out the channels we believe most effective and
direct, and urging all to do something, & not rest
content with feeling, & with words which are only wo
- So, it may prove, practically, that by fixing attenti
too exclusively on this proposed union of A.S. people
the true end, of carrying forward the great principle
of the Cause, may be postponed or subordinated
The feeling shown to the Manch". Conference look
a little like this. - I do not mean to charge Mr
G. with any selfish, or unworthy dyect. I suppo
in all that I have said, that the ultimate greatest goo
of the cause, as he apprehends it, is his motive, &
~~difference~~ I differ as to the real value of the ~~end~~ means ~~suppo~~
~~to be aimed at~~ by which the end is to be secured
Mr. Garrison, I hope, will write you more satisfa
torily on this subject. —

I tremble to hear your account, & believ
(through you) of Pillsbury's health. I fear he
is really no better. If he should have to pass
the winter abroad, in some warm climate, wa

Our thoughts and sympathies are very much with your father. We are sorry to learn that he has been more unwell, & hope that as the extreme heats abate he will revive in strength & Spirits. I have not seen Mrs. Follen. I had a beautiful note from her. She appears all alive to the duties which the cause imposes. Mr. Quincy was to start, today, to attend the Ohio Annual Meeting. There is a great and a growing Spirit of Hostility to Slavery & the Slave Power everywhere manifesting itself in the Northern States, - more strongly in the Middle & No Western States than in N. England, - I hope Mr. Steinthal has rec'd. the long letter I wrote him, & only to show him my respect, & Sympathy. - I have seen no notice of the Manchester Conference, beyond a paragraph & or two of a dozen lines. - I must close, as my time has allgone. With much love and respect, Ever Yr. Sam'l May Jr.

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